

INDEXA



Fall 1997

Issue 40

A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship
Daily Information Session—14.236 @ 23:30Z

Kure Atoll & Midway Island: K7K & K4M

After returning from the 1996 Midway operation, members of the AH4/AH0W team sensed Kure Atoll (OC-020) beckoning them for their next operation, just as the mystical island of Bali Hai once summoned the sailors of *South Pacific* to its romantic shores. Fish and Wildlife authorities had alerted the Midway team to an intense DXpedition interest in Kure and the EU survey, published in early 1997, reflected the rising status of Kure on the European needs list.

A joint operation was therefore proposed that would include Fish and Wildlife scientists and the members of the Midway-Kure DX Foundation's 1996 Midway team. Ultimately, a group of four scientists would join Kimo Chun, KH7U; Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB; Michael Goode, N9NS; Randy Martin, K0EU; Burt Myers, W0MY (ex-W0RLX); Erik Sjölund, SM0AGD; Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG; and Yuji Yoshitani, JA3IG/K1NT. Their expedition would take them all back to Midway by aircraft and then to Kure Atoll by ship, the S.S. *Midway*.

Upon arrival, the DXpedition team was congratulated for making the journey to what geographers claim is the remotest island on the earth. The proximity of Kure to its nearest continental landmass is greater than any other island in the

world. It is also one of the most restricted pieces of real estate anywhere: "No Trespassing" and "No Landing" signs surround the island, and navigational charts show the entire atoll as prohibited.

In fact, the only "legal" residents on Kure are the Hawaiian monk seals and the Green sea turtles who must share the islands with hundreds of thousands of ground-nesting birds which include the legendary Gooney birds (Laysan and short-tailed albatross), white fairy terns, the Great frigate birds, petrels, boobies, noddies, tropicbirds, shearwaters, curlews, and plovers, to mention a few. None of them ever protested the invasion of their territory by these strange-looking DXpeditioners. In fact, the frigate birds took an instant liking to the yagis!

After making nearly a dozen, 4-mile over-the-reef zodiac landings from the S.S. *Midway* to Green Island, the K7K team immediately began the



Happy DXpeditioning Campers posing in front of the S.S. Midway with the INDEXA banner of good luck. L-to-R: Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG; Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB; Yuji Yoshitani, JA3IG/K1NT; Kimo Chun, KH7U; Michael Goode, N9NS; and Erik Sjölund, SM0AGD. Randy, K0EU; and Burt, W0MY (ex-W0RLX) are missing. They were busy running last-minute pileups when the picture was taken.

work of putting up four HF stations, two on the western shore of the island and two uphill. Antennas included Force-12 C-3's, Force-12 80 and 160 meter verticals, Force-12's new WARC-7 tribander, HF2V verticals, a Cushcraft A3WS and the German-made Titanex 40-80-160 meter vertical. The team also enjoyed the benefits of the SM0AGD 20-meter Special, a vertical quickly assembled by Erik, SM0AGD, from the broken remnants of one of the beams destroyed during the reef

(Continued on page 2)

inside...

Guinea—3XA0DX

New Life Members and Extra Help

Willis Island and Holmes Reef

Palmyra island—KH5

"Tex," N6AHV—SK

Election Results

K7K and K4M.....from page 1



Not all welcomes are warm!

landing. The vertical worked great, particularly on RTTY.

All four stations were quickly pressed into simultaneous operation, bands permitting. A week later the team netted over 25,000 QSOs including 1,100 on 160 meters. The team's objective to work Europe was well accomplished with over 35% of the total QSO count being with European as well as some ME and AF stations. Most of the European QSOs occurred on 20, 30, and 40 meters, but the final two days of the operation netted a fair number of European QSOs on 80 meters.

Propagation studies earlier provided by Ned Stearns, AA7A, proved to be highly dependable to the K7K team. However, the team experienced an unpredictable and total blackout of propagation on all bands on their third day of operating. Fortunately, the bands restored themselves after about four hours, much to the relief of the team. It wouldn't take long to jump-start the pile-ups after this brief blackout.

Sensitive to the ecological concerns of Kure, including beaches covered with plastic and glass garbage that continuously floats ashore, the K7K team undertook to assist the Fish and Wildlife scientists with their clean-up work. Team members, when not on-the-air, worked side-by-side with the F&W personnel to clear several meadows of a non-indigenous bush-weed that has be-

come a menace to Kure's ground-nesting birds. The Kure team returned home with an unsolicited invitation from the Fish and Wildlife authorities to return with them during future inspection tours of Kure. In anticipation of that, the team left some equipment in storage on Kure.

Following Kure, the team returned

for a 2-night, one-day stay on Midway where they made approximately 3,000 QSOs as K4M before returning to Kauai and traveling onward to their respective homes. As chairman of the Midway-Kure DX Foundation, Frank, AH0W, also worked out an arrangement with officials on Midway whereby two permanent HF stations will be installed in Midway's hangar to include two fully-equipped ICOM HF stations and Force-12, Cushcraft, and other antennas. The stations should be ready beginning the first of April, 1998. (Information about visiting and operating from Midway can be obtained from: frsmith@aztec.asu.edu)

On Kure's Green Island, on the very site of where the Loran antenna once

stood, there is a monument honoring the U.S. Coast Guard's thirty-year work on Kure. On that monument is a plaque that reads: "You can always leave Kure Island, but Kure Island will never leave you." Those were the feelings of all who participated in the September-October, 1997, INDEXA-sponsored DXpedition to Kure, K7K.

QSL both the K7K and K4M operations via KE7LZ.

Guinea—3XA0DX

by Franz Langner, DJ9ZB

As 1997 drew to a close, I was very busy preparing a short operation from West Africa with DJ6SI.

On December 8, Baldur and I began the 6-day operation as 3XA0DX from Conakry, the capital of Guinea. A special effort was made to work the WAF bands and, overall, we made 4,200 QSOs on SSB and 6,400 QSOs on CW.

I didn't take the beam with me; instead I purchased a Cushcraft R7000 vertical which I left with an electronic engineer in Conakry. I hope he will activate 3X in the near future.

Who owns KH5?

According to hearsay, Palmyra Island was sold to a New York investment firm. If true, we'll have to wait and see how this affects future DXpeditions!

New Life Members.....

K6TIM
N7EM
and,

N7FD
JG3UVN
OK2SKU

KD6UO
WH6LL

WD5CJI
K0GI

W5BXX
KI7CM

Extra Help Provided By.....

N6AHV
W9NVB
W4USW
KA4JNB
PY4OD
W3DR
AA7XA
W0FS

LA8CJ
VK6WO
WA8BIJ
K5YAA
K4VNY
W2OFB
AA7UC
N0SU

K4DTT
K9WK
WD6EYD
KD4NFE
VE3IQ
W6UA
DL1EMO
and,

N6QI
W2TN
AE2N
K2USL
K8IXP
KJ7D
N9QQK
CT1EFC

W5VCS
KA2PHQ
N0ZA
WDX2TAU
W6NIZ
WB2MWW
WH6LL

QRZ de VK9WM and VK9WY

by Bill Horner, VK4FW

As with all DXpeditions to rarer type countries, this one needed support. Thankfully, INDEXA was very quick to provide it. The whole operation is history now—a successful 42,275 QSOs logged on SSB, CW, and RTTY modes on all bands, 160-10m.

Our primary goal was to give maximum opportunity to east coast USA and Europe.

Willis Island.....consists of three small islets: North, Mid, and South.

The southern island is where the Australian government has a fully manned Met Station (4 people sign-on for six months at a time). On this small island the staff has most home comforts including the Internet. Over the years, there have been some small palm-like trees planted and they now provide a little shade. As with all Pacific islands, they are plentiful with birds—here, mainly frigates, terns, and boobies.

The northern island (for which we had documentation) lies some twenty miles north; however, there are no home comforts. The same can be said for Mid Island.

Holmes Reef.....Wow! What a place for diving; however, for DXing...well, if you like having your feet wet, then fine. When we arrived, the reefs were about one metre above the water; however, as the tide rose they slowly all but disappeared. The decision was made that it was too dangerous to even attempt it.

The Journey.....After loading our 60-ft. vessel, "FLOREAT," and waiting for the last operator to arrive, we proceeded out of Cairns and headed to sea. As soon as Cairns disappeared and we got outside the Great Barrier Reef, the sea got rougher and rougher. Needless to say, some of us—me, one of the worst—got quite ill. When we finally arrived at South Willis and anchored on the lee side to take some supplies ashore, most of us took the time to catch our breath and slowly get

some good color about our cheeks.

All the operators were invited ashore for the guided tour and the staff was pleased to have visitors, all be it for only a short time.

Now, on to North Island...well, so we thought. After some two hours of running around in the dinghy, the skipper returned and said that he didn't like it at all. Here we were suddenly one kilometre from shore and not feeling very comfortable with the prospect that we may have to go home without operating. Mid Island lay south about halfway between North and South Islands. This became home as we were able to successfully anchor about 300 metres from shore. Despite not having any documentation for Mid Island, we decided that it was here or home.

Operators.....Without a doubt these girls and boys did a great job under much duress as the weather got worse before it got better. Personally, I am very pleased that the team was able to get along with each other and have a little fun while endeavouring to get you all in the log. When we finally went QRT there were still Europeans calling. We all fully realize that some of you missed out on this or that band but we hope that we have been successful in getting most of you in the log. For the last ten years, Willis has always remained in the top 40 on the worldwide wanted list. **It will take a while to get back there.**

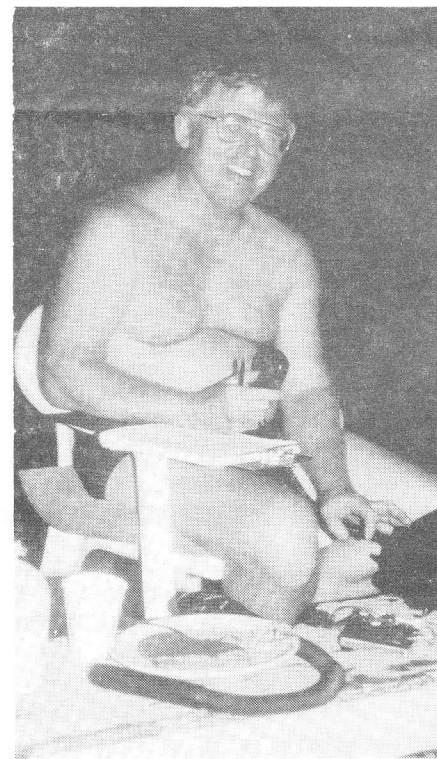
Some of you will read various articles on this DXpedition as we were requested by many to do so. I have tried to keep this a little interesting as well as shed a different bit of light on what took place.

Thanks.....to all of you who supported this operation. Our next target is Canton, T31. Oceania DX Group will always be indebted to INDEXA for its support and we hope that we will continue to be able to put on a good show for all.

Palmyra Island— N4BQW/KH5

from Chuck Brady, N4BQW

After a flight from Honolulu to Christmas Island, Chuck loaded his gear aboard the *SN Machias*, an 80' steel staysail schooner. In addition to sails, it has a 200hp diesel connected to a 41" propeller.



Chuck, N4BQW/KH5

The Fullard-Leo family of Honolulu owns Palmyra Island. Chuck was met onboard the *Machias* by two members of the family and three Fish and Wildlife personnel.

The voyage to the island went well but the zodiac landing was eventful. The fun started when the floor split and the zodiac nearly sank. All were wet, but thanks to good packing no gear was damaged.

After setup, the operation continued smoothly except for time out to eat, sleep, and work on minor antenna problems.

During his nine-day October stay, Chuck put 3,283 contacts in the log. QSL via WA4FFW.

D. W. "Tex" Myers, N6AHV—SK

Tex, N6AHV, was a devoted family man who, before retiring a few years ago, gave his time to INDEXA as a staff member.

In addition to providing DX information for all amateurs, he assisted in obtaining needed equipment repair, shipping, and other jobs that keep the amateur world turning.

Mr. Tex loved the world and we will miss him.



Opal and "Tex," N6AHV

Election—1997-98

President: W4WMQ*
Vice-President: K4MQG*
Secretary-Treasurer: W4UNP*

Directors: LA8CJ
W4MPY
W4FRU
HS0/G4JMB
K8CH
VK6RU
ZL1AMO*
DJ9ZB*

Vice-Directors: WA9AVN
W8BLA

* Newly Elected

INDEXA POB 607 • Rock Hill, SC • 29731 • USA

The International DX Association

Annual membership: \$15 U.S. or 30 IRCs

Life membership: \$150 or 300 IRCs

Join INDEXA! Support DX, participate in daily DX Info Session, and receive quarterly issues of the *INDEXA Newsletter*—

Editor: W4WMQ Copy Editor: AA7UC

SUPPORT THOSE
THAT SUPPORT
"INDEXA"

CALL DOC'S for fast ordering and quick help



And all your other favorite lines of Amateur gear
DOC'S COMMUNICATIONS

702 Chickamauga Ave.
Rossville, GA 30741

(706) 866-2302 OR 861-5610

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE
with **MOSLEY ANTENNAS**



314-994-7872

10812 Ambassador Blvd. St Louis, MO 63132

PROLOG QSL ROUTE DATABASE

Over 59,000 direct and manager routes. Add or edit as you like. DXCC Prefix & bearing info. Supports all major CD-ROM databases. \$23 USD incl. S/H. Update subscription (6 issues) add \$36. Ask about our full-featured logging program.

DATAMATRIX, 5560 JACKSON LOOP NE
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124 (800)-373-6564

THE QSL MAN NOW!! Free QSLs

Join the **W4MPY QSL CLUB** and qualify for **FREE QSLs**
Write for complete information
Box 73, Monetta, SC 29105-0073
Phone or FAX (803) 685-7117
Email: W4mpy@PBTComm.net
URL: <http://www.mindspring.com/~w4mpy/>

INDEXA NEWSLETTER

First Class Mail



INDEXA
P. O. Box 607
Rock Hill, S.C.
29731 U.S.A.

Please check your label for
expiration date